(d) the steps proposed to be taken to bring the functions of the Institute in level with contemporary needs?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (d) In order to consider reorganisation of the National Institute of Social Defence an Expert Group was constituted by the Government. The Expert Group consisted of Government servants, representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations and Social Scientists. The streamlining of the functioning of the Institute is an on-going process and the recommendations of the Expert Group are being given due consideration.

Incident of caving-in below Jharia town

1677. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that towards the end of October, 1996 part of area No. 8, below Jharia town caved-in;

(b) if so, the details of the mishap, alongwith the area and population or families affected, and steps taken to rehabilitate the affected families;

(c) whether it is also a fact that required sand stowing is not being done, as a result of which these types of happenings are taking place; if so, the reasons thereof alongwith the details of sand stowing operations during the last three years; and

(d) whether any assessment has been made of similar possible happenings in the near by areas; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) As per information received from Coal India Limited (CIL), Katras More, Chouthai Kulhi, Hosanabad areas including the house named 'Sadhan Kutir', in and around the Jharia town which have unauthorised buildings constructed over land vested with Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) are vulnerable to subsidence. BCCL has been publishing appeals in local newspapers informing the residents about the situation and requesting them to vacate.

Subsequent to appearance of tension cracks on surface buildings at Katras More on 27.10.1996, District Administration after site investigation have estimated 219 houses in these localities to have developed cracks. According to an 'Expert Committee' cracks affecting the houses have developed due to movements in the old goaves triggered by underground fire.

Dy. Commissioner, Dhanbad after inspecting the affected sites is of the opinion that shifting of inhabitants in houses over non-coal bearing areas is the only solution. District administration has requested the State Government of Bihar for financial assistance for initiating action to shift the affected persons. Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad requested BCCL to pay Rs. 15 lakhs purely on compassionate and humanitarian grounds for helping such affected families who are poor. This request of Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad has been acceded to by the BCCL management.

(c) It is not a fact that the required sand stowing is not being done. The quantum of sand stowing done in coal mines of Bharat Coking Coal Limited during the last three years has been as under:

Year	Sand stowing (in cu. metres)
1993-94	26,16,645
1994-95	21,33,081
1995-96(PROVISIONAL)	24,15,500

(d) As assessed by various Committees the possibility of similar occurrences in the nearby areas cannot be ruled out.

Export of wheat below world prices

1678. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been exporting wheat at well below world prices as reported in the Indian Express, dated 21st May, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether USA, Morocco and Turkey rejected Indian wheat consignments on ground of fungus infection as reported in the Financial Express, dated 21st May, 1996; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) It is not possible to accurately compare the prices of commodities traded by various countries in the international markets on account of different varieties traded, variations in quality and additional expenditure incurred in grading and packaging for exports.

(c) and (d) A small number of consignments of wheat from India were detained by the Turkish, Moroccan and Polish authorities as they were found to be infected by Tilletia Indica (Karnal Bunt) fungus.

Criteria for allocation of foodgains etc. to the states under PDS

1679. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the various factors which are taken into consideration for the allocation of foodgrains, imported edible oil and soft coke for Public Distribution System of the States;

(b) the details of allocations of foodgrains, sugar, imported edible oil and soft coke made to the State of Maharashtra during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that one percent increase each in allocation during 1996-97 over the year 1995-96 was made for the State;

(d) if so, whether Government purpose to increase it further in 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Allocation of foodgrains for the Public Distribution System (PDS) from the Central Pool is made on month to month basis taking into account availability of stocks in the Central Pool, inter-se demands of the States/UTs, market availability of commodities, offtake trends and other related factors.

(b) The details of allocation of foodgrains, sugar, imported edible oil and soft coke made to the State of